

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Forces
in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11
September 24, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four U.S. commercial airliners. These terrorists coldly murdered thousands of innocent people on those airliners and on the ground, and deliberately destroyed the towers of the World Trade Center and surrounding buildings and a portion of the Pentagon. In response to these attacks on our territory, our citizens, and our way of life, I ordered the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat support forces to a number of foreign nations in the Central and Pacific Command areas of operations. In the future, as we act to prevent and deter terrorism, I may find it necessary to order additional forces into these and other areas of the world, including into foreign nations where U.S. Armed Forces are already located.

I have taken these actions pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. It is not now possible to predict the scope and duration of these deployments, and the actions necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the

United States. It is likely that the American campaign against terrorism will be a lengthy one.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution and Senate Joint Resolution 23, which I signed on September 18, 2001. As you know, officials of my Administration and I have been regularly communicating with the leadership and other Members of Congress about the actions we are taking to respond to the threat of terrorism and we will continue to do so. I appreciate the continuing support of the Congress, including its passage of Senate Joint Resolution 23, in this action to protect the security of the United States of America and its citizens, civilian and military, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of
Japan and an Exchange With Reporters
September 25, 2001

President Bush. I am really pleased and honored that my personal friend and a friend of the United States has come all the way from Japan to express his solidarity with the American people and our joint battle against terrorism.

The Prime Minister and I had a wide-ranging discussion about ways that we can

cooperate with each other to fight global terrorism. Most notably, we talked about the need to work in a way to cut off their funding. The Prime Minister also talked about ways that Japan will share intelligence, that we'll work cooperatively on the diplomatic front. We had a great discussion.

Not only am I pleased with the great cooperation that we're having with our friend the Japanese, I am most pleased that the Saudi Arabians yesterday cut off relations with the Taliban and that President Putin, in a strong statement to the world, talked about the cooperation that Russia and the United States will have in combating global terrorism as well.

The coalition of legitimate governments and freedom-loving people is strong. People will contribute in different ways to this coalition. But the mission won't change. The duties of the coalition may alter, but the mission won't alter, and that is to rout out and destroy international terrorism.

The Prime Minister understands this requires a long-term vision, requires a patience amongst both our people. And it also requires a determination and a strong will. I know he's got a determination and strong will, and he knows I am determined and willful in this struggle.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I'm very pleased to say, we are friends. Had a great talk, friendly, and I conveyed what I am thinking. We Japanese are ready to stand by the United States to fight terrorism. We could make sure of this global objective. We must fight terrorism with determination and patience. Very good meeting—fantastic meeting.

President Bush. I'll take a few questions.

Airline Security/Airline Labor Issues

Q. Mr. President, on the domestic front, sir, why not extend unemployment and health insurance benefits to airline workers? And what do you think of the proposals to put reservists and military police on airplanes and to allow pilots to carry guns?

President Bush. Well, we're looking at all options—this doesn't require translation, by the way—we're looking at all options as to how to enhance airline security. I had a breakfast this morning with leaders of the Senate and the House. This was

one of the topics we discussed. Secretary of Transportation Mineta is coming over this afternoon to present me with some of the options. And I look forward to working with Congress to put some concrete steps in place that will assure the American public that the Government and the airlines are doing as much as we can to enhance security and safety.

In terms of the labor issues, Elaine Chao is developing a list of recommendations, a list of options, to make sure that the displaced worker is given due consideration in the halls of Government. That subject came up as well. There is no consensus yet. There is a desire to work toward taking care of displaced workers. And both the Congress and the White House will be presenting options.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Pakistan/Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned Saudi Arabia. What does this mean in terms of isolating the Taliban? And would you now encourage Pakistan to do the same?

President Bush. Well, we've gotten broad cooperation from Pakistan. We're most pleased with their response. They are a country that has—going to be, obviously, deeply affected by actions we may or may not take in that part of the world.

It's very interesting that the Prime Minister shared with me the fact that his country has provided \$40 million in humanitarian assistance to the Pakistanis, and I want to thank him for that. We, too, are providing humanitarian assistance for people in that world, as are the Saudis. And that's an important part of the coalition, to understand that one of the issues is to make sure that Pakistan is a stable country and that whatever consequences may occur as a result of actions we may or may not take is one that we do the best we can to manage.

In terms of—

Q. Isolation of the Taliban.

President Bush. Oh, isolating the Taliban. Well, I think most people in the world

understand that I was very serious and they're serious when we say if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. That's pretty isolated, it seems like to me.

Japan

Q. Mr. President, according to opinion poll, about 90 percent of the Japanese are concerned that Japan's support of the U.S. military action could trigger terrorist attacks on Japan, itself. Do you have anything to say to them, to their concern?

President Bush. Well, I think this: I think 100 percent of the Japanese people ought to understand that we're dealing with evil people who hate freedom and legitimate governments, and that now is the time for freedom-loving people to come together to fight terrorist activity. We cannot be—we cannot fear terrorists. We can't let terrorism dictate our course of action. And we will not let a terrorist dictate the course of action in the United States, and I'm sure the Prime Minister feels the same way about Japan. No threat—no threat will prevent freedom-loving people from defending freedom.

And make no mistake about it: This is good versus evil. These are evildoers. They have no justification for their actions. There's no religious justification; there's no political justification. The only motivation is evil. And the Prime Minister understands that, and the Japanese people, I think, understand that as well.

Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, amid signs of increasing turmoil in Afghanistan and signs that there may be splits within the Taliban regime, itself, do you believe that the people of Afghanistan, themselves, are trying to liberate themselves from the Taliban rule, and would you support that as part of your campaign against terrorism?

President Bush. We have no issue and no anger toward the citizens of Afghanistan. We have, obviously, serious problems with

the Taliban Government. They're an incredibly repressive government, a government that has a value system that's hard for many in America, or in Japan for that matter, to relate to—incredibly repressive toward women.

They have made the decision to harbor terrorists. The mission is to rout terrorists, to find them and bring them to justice. Or, as I explained to the Prime Minister in western terms, to smoke them out of their caves, to get them running so we can get them.

The best way to do that, and one way to do that, is to ask for the cooperation of citizens within Afghanistan who may be tired of having the Taliban in place or tired of having Usama bin Laden, people from foreign soils, in their own land, willing to finance this repressive government.

I understand the reality of what's taking place inside Afghanistan, and we're going to have a—listen, as I've told the Prime Minister, we're angry, but we've got a clear vision. We're upset, but we know what we've got to do. And the mission is to bring these particular terrorists to justice and, at the same time, send a clear signal, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], that says if you harbor a terrorist, if you aid a terrorist, if you hide terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists.

And this is an administration—we're not into nation-building; we're focused on justice. And we're going to get justice. It's going to take a while, probably. But I'm a patient man. Nothing will diminish my will and my determination—nothing.

Japan

Q. Mr. President, do you expect any financial support also from Japan, including—

President Bush. Financial proposals?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. You mean, related to our—

Q. For the entire mission against terrorism.

President Bush. For our—well, first of all, the Prime Minister, as he said, talked about \$40 million of aid to Pakistan. That's a very important contribution. And I repeat the reason why: A stable Pakistan is very important to a stable world. After all, Pakistan has nuclear weapons, and we want stability in countries that may have nuclear weapons. And so that's a very important financial contribution.

Remember, this war will be fought on a variety of fronts. It is not like wars that we're used to. There's very little that's conventional about it. It's different. And so, for example, the sharing of information is vital to find and rout out terrorism. It's vital that we have a cooperative relationship. It's vital that if we hear anything that may affect the security of Japan, that we're forthcoming with that information and vice versa.

And so the resources—again, you—the tendency is to think in terms of a conventional war, where people might put money in to support a military operation. That's not the kind of war we're talking about

now. And so resources will be deployed in different ways: intelligence gathering, diplomacy, humanitarian aid, as well as cutting off resources. And one effective tool in getting these people is to cut off their money. And yesterday I made an announcement here about how we intend to do so.

Prime Minister Koizumi. I believe there are many ways to cooperate. It is one way to provide financial assistance, but there are diplomatic means; there are ways to provide medical assistance; there is assistance to refugees; there is ways to transport supplies. And I believe these are all various ways in which we can cooperate.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. After the Prime Minister's opening remarks, he spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to Federal Bureau of Investigation Employees September 25, 2001

Thank you all. Thanks. It's been my honor to come over to thank everybody for their hard work. I know there's a lot of folks here at the FBI who are working long hours. People are away from their families more than they want. But my presence here should assure you that I recognize the important contribution you make and that the FBI and the wonderful men and women who work here are an incredibly important part of the army that is going to win the war on terrorism.

You've got some pretty good generals here, starting with General Ashcroft, who is doing a fine job as the Attorney General of America. I told the country when I

picked the man that you don't have to worry where he stands and the values he brings to the job. I'm proud of the service. And I appreciate so very much Larry as well, coming up from Atlanta, Georgia, to serve our country.

As you know, I made an important pick to head the agency. I picked a good, solid American, a man who has been under fire before and who doesn't flinch under fire this time around, either, and that's Bob Mueller. Thank you for your service.

First, I—as I mentioned to many of your colleagues, we're facing a different kind of war than our country is used to—that 2 weeks ago there was an act of war declared